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| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
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| 09/490,448 | 01/24/2000 | Atsushi Nakamura | 862.C1795 | 7161 |

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| EXAMINER |
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HUYNH, KIM T

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| ART UNIT | PAPER NUMBER |
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2181

DATE MAILED: 07/17/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/490,448

Applicant(s)

NAKAMURA ET AL.

Examiner

Kim Huynh

Art Unit

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-41 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-41 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on ____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) ____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). ____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Title

The title of the invention is not descriptive. A new title is required that is clearly indicative of the invention to which the claims are directed.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371(c) of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

The changes made to 35 U.S.C. 102(e) by the American Inventors Protection Act of 1999 (AIPA) do not apply to the examination of this application as the application being examined was not (1) filed on or after November 29, 2000, or (2) voluntarily published under 35 U.S.C. 122(b). Therefore, this application is examined under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) prior to the amendment by the AIPA (pre-AIPA 35 U.S.C. 102(e)).

Claim 1-11, 18-19 and 21-26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Isoda (U.S Patent 6,249,835)

Isoda discloses:

Claim1. An information processing apparatus comprising:

communication control means for connecting an external device so as to allow communication; and (col.2, lines 1-23)

memory means for storing information about a device mountable on said apparatus in a memory area which can be accessed by the external device via said communication control means. (col.2, lines 1-23) and (col.8, lines 17-18)

Claim2. The apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising transmission means for transmitting information in the memory area in accordance with a request from the external device via said communication control means. (col.2, lines 1-23)

Claim3. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said communication control means comprises a communication control bus complying with an IEEE-1394 standard. (col.4, lines 36-45)

Claim4. The apparatus according to claim 3, wherein the memory area is set in a configuration ROM defined by the IEEE-1394 standard. (col.4, lines 16-45)

Claim5. The apparatus according to claim 4, wherein position information unique to an electronic device is written in a node dependent info directory of the configuration ROM. (col.4, lines 1-62)

Claim6. The apparatus according to claim 4, wherein the memory area is specified based upon information held in a Instance Directory of the configuration ROM. (col.4, lines 1-62)

Claim7. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said memory means stores,

in the memory area, information indicative of a device mountable on said information processing apparatus and a device which has already been mounted on said information processing apparatus. (col.14, lines 25-33)

Claim8. An information processing apparatus comprising:

communication control means for connecting an external device so as to allow communication; (col.2, lines 1-23)

acquisition means for accessing a memory area of the external device via said communication control means and acquiring information about a device on which the external device is mountable; and (col.14, lines 25-33), (col.8, lines 17-18) and (col.4, lines 52-54)

display control means for performing display based upon the information acquired by said acquisition means. (col.9, lines 39-50)

Claim9. The apparatus according to claim 8, wherein said communication control means comprises a communication control bus complying-with an IEEE-1394 standard. (col.4, lines 36-45)

Claim10. The apparatus according to claim 9, wherein said acquisition means accesses a Instance Directory stored in a configuration ROM defined by the IEEE-1394 standard to acquire information about a device on which the external device is mountable. (col.4, lines 1-62)

Claim11. The apparatus according to claim 8, wherein said acquisition means acquires information indicative of a device on which the external device is mountable and indicative of whether each device has already been

mounted on the external device, and (col.12, lines 42-48), (col.13, lines 47-51) and (col.14, lines 25-33)

said display control means displays a device on which the external device is mountable on the basis of the information acquired by said acquisition means, and identifiably displays a device which has already been mounted on the external device. (col.9, lines 39-50)

Claims 18 and 19 are rejected as applied above method as apparatus.

Claim21. A storage medium which stores a control program for controlling an information processing apparatus having communication control means for connecting an external device so as to allow communication, and holding means for holding information about a device mountable on the apparatus in a memory area which can be accessed by the external device via the communication control means, the control program comprising a code of:

the transmission step of transmitting the information about a device mountable on the apparatus, that is held in the memory area, via the communication control means in accordance with a request from the external device via the communication control means. (col.20, lines 1-67)

Claim22. A storage medium which stores a control program for controlling an information processing apparatus having communication control means for connecting an external device so as to allow communication, the control program comprising codes of:

the acquisition. step of accessing a memory area of the external device via the communication control means and acquiring information about a device on which the external device is mountable; and the display control step of performing display based upon the information acquired in the acquisition step. (col.19, lines 24-60)

Claim23. An information processing apparatus comprising:

communication means for connecting an external device so as to allow communication; and (col.9, lines 33-67)

memory means for storing function information indicative of a function of said information processing apparatus in a predetermined memory area which can be accessed by said communication means (col.7, lines 42-46), (col.8, lines 17-18), and (col.8, lines 39-44)

Claims 24-26 are rejected as applied above.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claim 12-17, 20 and 27-41 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Isoda (U.S Patent 6,249,835) in view of Silverman (U.S Patent 6,370,603).

Isoda discloses all the limitations for claims 12-17, 20 and 27-41 except the limitation that communication means for connecting a plurality of external apparatuses so as to allow communication. Silverman discloses an interface device is provided which enables communications between devices having disparate protocols, furthermore it has the ability to recognize what type of external device. It would have been obvious one having ordinary skills in the art to have the communication control means for connecting a plurality of external apparatuses so as to allow communication as taught by Silverman so as to allow for greater flexibility for connecting or communicating more devices. (abstract lines 1-10)

Claim12 is rejected as applied above

Claim13. The system according to claim 12, wherein said communication

control means comprises a communication control bus complying with an IEEE-1394 standard. (col.4, lines 36-45)

Claim14. The system according to claim 13, wherein the memory area is set in a configuration ROM defined by the IEEE-1394 standard. (col.4, lines 1-62)

Claim15. The system according to claim 14, wherein the memory area is an area specified based upon information held in a Instance Directory of the configuration ROM. (col.4, lines 1-62)

Claim16. The system according to claim 12, wherein said holding means holds, in the memory area, information indicative of a device mountable on said first information processing apparatus and a device which has already

been mounted on said information processing apparatus. (col.12, lines 42-48), (col.13, lines 47-51), (col.14, lines 25-33) and (col.9, lines 39-50)

Claim17. The system according to claim 16, wherein said acquisition means acquires information indicative of a device on which said first information processing apparatus is mountable and a device which has already been mounted on said information processing apparatus, and

said display control means displays a device on which an external device is mountable on the basis of the information acquired by said acquisition means, and identifiably displays a device which has already been mounted on the external device. (col.12, lines 42-48), (col.13, lines 47-51), (col.14, lines 25-33) and (col.9, lines 39-50)

Claim20 is rejected as applied above

Claim28. The apparatus according to claim 27, further comprising:

detection means for detecting a function, which can be realized by combination of the plurality of external apparatuses, on the basis of the information acquired by said acquisition means; and (col.4, lines 36-45), (col.10, lines 7-10)

presentation means for presenting the function detected by said detection means to a user. (col.4, lines 36-45)

Claim29. The apparatus according to claim 28, wherein said communication means comprises a communication control bus complying with an IEEE1394 standard. (col.4, lines 36-45)

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Claims 30-41 are rejected as applied above

Conclusion

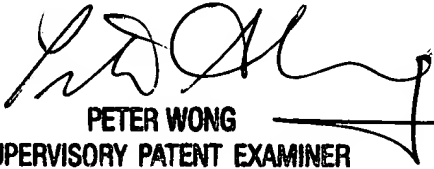
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Kim Huynh whose telephone number is (703)305-5384. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 9am-7pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Peter Wong can be reached on (703)305-3477. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703)746-7239 for regular communications and (703)746-7238 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703)306-5631.

Kim Huynh

July 8, 2002


PETER WONG
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2100